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Federal Aviation
Administration

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20 YEARS OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION! 1984-2004

*FAA Commemorates 20 years since the passage of
the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984*



2004 marks the 20th year since the Commercial Space Launch Act was signed on October 30, 1984. The Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST) kicked off the 20-year anniversary at FAA's 7th Annual Commercial Space Transportation Conference on February 10-11 with the opening address and the first panel, entitled, "The History of Commercial Space Transportation."

The Conference opened with a keynote address by the Honorable Jeffrey N. Shane, Under Secretary for Policy for the Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Shane provided an interesting look back to the years 1983 and 1984 when DOT was beginning its involvement in U.S. commercial space transportation activities. Elizabeth Dole was Secretary of Transportation in the Reagan Administration, and he was a lawyer in DOT's General Counsel assigned to work on the exciting new commercial space transportation industry. He related the story of the early bureaucratic contest between DOT and the Department of Commerce as to which agency would have jurisdiction over the new commercial space transportation sector. "... *We found ourselves in a horserace...with the Department of Commerce. Commerce had a different take on the issue: what the commercial space industry needed, they said, was a more effective champion in government. Because championing U.S. industry was Commerce's stock in trade, they were the logical locus of the newly centralized responsibility for commercial space. We [in DOT] were pretty excited about this new sector, and so the rivalry got pretty intense – so intense, in fact, that by 1984, it finally required President Reagan to make the choice himself.*" Mr. Shane described the Cabinet meeting wherein President Reagan and his entire Cabinet listened to the arguments from both Secretary Dole and a representative for Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. In this meeting, Secretary Dole argued forcefully and successfully for DOT's role as the lead agency for Federal oversight of the U. S. commercial space transportation industry. This role was carried out by the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST) in the DOT's Office of the Secretary and later in 1995 transferred to FAA to become AST, FAA's seventh Line of Business.

The first panel, "The History of Commercial Space Transportation," featured two former OCST directors. Jennifer Dorn was the first director appointed by Elizabeth Dole to lead the Department's commercial space transportation efforts and Courtney Stadd, the third OCST director. Ms. Dorn is currently the Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration. The panel, moderated by AST staff member, Phil Brinkman, also featured Carl Rappaport, a former AST staff member and Marc Daniels, Director, Government Programs, Verestar, Inc. Mr. Rappaport retired on January 3, 2001 after 41 years and 11 months of Federal service. When he retired
(continued on page 2, column 1))

(SEE page 3 for a complete summary of the Conference.)



(20 Years of Commercial Space Continued) -- from AST, he was the last remaining charter member of the original OCST. Mr. Daniels discussed his work with Space Services, Inc. (SSI), the rocket company founded by Deke Slayton, the legendary NASA astronaut who flew on the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission. SSI is known as the company that conducted the first privately-funded space launch and the first launch from a non-Federal site, Matagorda Island, Texas. Mr. Daniels pointed out that SSI had to get permits and clearances from 17 Federal agencies to conduct the first launch. He noted that the launch became an impetus for the Commercial Space Launch Act, which made DOT a “one-stop shop” for licensing commercial launches.

MAXIMUM PROBABLE LOSS WORKSHOP – WASHINGTON, DC – JANUARY 28-29 – AST conducted a two-day workshop in Washington, DC, designed to consider refinements to its methodology for determining financial responsibility for FAA-licensed space launch and reentry activities. By law, financial responsibility is determined based on the concept of maximum probable loss (MPL), i.e., the worst accident that is likely to occur within a pre-determined probability threshold rather than the worst accident that could possibly occur. Information exchanged during the workshop will help the FAA refine its methodology for calculating MPL. The FAA will evaluate the value of replacing some approximations with more accurate analytical models. Participants in the workshop included technical experts from the U.S. Air Force, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), and the Australian Space Licensing and Safety Office.

Launch News

January 9, 2004

Sea Launch Company, LLC conducted its eleventh launch of the Zenit-3SL rocket from the Odyssey launch platform in the Pacific Ocean. The Zenit-3SL launched the Telstar 14/Estrela do Sul 1 communications satellite, owned and operated by Loral Skynet do Brasil. It will provide satellite services for Brazil, the Americas, and the North Atlantic Ocean. The launch took off from the launch platform **Odyssey** located at 154 degrees West longitude and zero degrees latitude in the Pacific Ocean. Liftoff time was 11:13 pm EST. FAA Safety Inspectors monitored the launch with Sea Launch personnel from the Assembly and Command ship (the **Sea Launch Commander**) located a safe distance from the launch platform. All launch operations were normal and Sea Launch was in full compliance with its license. Other AST personnel monitored and provided support at Sea Launch facilities in Seattle, Washington and FAA Headquarters. For more information: http://www.sea-launch.com/current_launch.htm

February 5, 2004

Lockheed Martin Corporation’s Atlas IAS rocket successfully launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, at 6:46 pm EST. The Atlas IAS launched the AMC-10 satellite, owned and operated by SES Americom. AMC-10 is a telecommunications satellite built to provide advanced C-band digital transmission service for cable television programming throughout the U.S., the Caribbean, Canada, Central America, and Mexico (along with AMC-11, which will be launched later in 2004. The Atlas Family of launch vehicles is marketed by International Launch Services, Inc. (ILS), of McLean, Virginia. ILS is a joint venture of the Lockheed Martin Corporation and two Russian companies, the Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center and the RSC Energia of Moscow.

March 12, 2004

The next FAA-licensed launch will be the Atlas III rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida at 12:41 a.m. The Atlas III will carry the MBSAT communications satellite, built by Space Systems/Loral (Palo Alto, California) for Mobile Broadcasting Corporation of Japan. MBSAT will provide services for mobile communication users in Japan and South Korea.

For more information on Atlas launches:
http://www.ilslaunch.com/stories/Current_Campaigns/

AST Summary Statistics *	2001	2002	2003	2004	SUM
Licensed Launches	6	7	8	2	156

**Sums are the cumulative number of licensed launches that have occurred since the first launch in 1989. Launches are through March 8, 2004. In addition to licensing launches, AST licenses commercial launch sites. To date, four such sites have been licensed.*

7th Annual FAA Commercial Space Transportation Conference

The FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST) held the seventh annual FAA Commercial Space Transportation Conference on February 10 and 11 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC. This year's Conference kicked off the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Commercial Space Launch Act in 1984. The agenda included six additional panels: 1) "*The History of Commercial Space Transportation*," 2) "*New Developments in Propulsion*," 3) "*Environmental Streamlining*," 4) "*System Safety in the FAA*," 5) "*The Emerging Suborbital Market*," 6) "*Reusable Launch Vehicle Operations and Maintenance*," and 7) "*The Future of Commercial Space Transportation: Twenty+ Years*." There were also four distinguished guest speakers: the Honorable Jeffrey N. Shane, DOT Under Secretary for Policy; the Honorable Ronald Sega, Director, Department of Defense Research and Engineering; the Honorable Tom Feeney (R. FL.), and Elon Musk, founder and chief executive officer of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, El Segundo, California. The Conference closed with a tour of the new Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the Steven Udvar-Hazy Center located at the Dulles International Airport.

The Conference received extensive news coverage, including the New York Times, USA Today, The Associated Press, Aerospace Daily, Aviation Week, CBS Radio Network and Fox News.

Check the AST website for availability of the Conference proceedings: <http://ast.faa.gov>



Conference Registration



Associate Administrator for
Commercial Space Transportation

AST PUBLICATIONS RELEASED – WASHINGTON, DC – FEBRUARY 10

Four new FAA commercial space transportation publications were released for 2004: 1) ***2004 U.S. Commercial Space Transportation Developments and Concepts: Vehicles, Technologies, and Spaceports*** covering current and planned activities for commercial expendable launch vehicles, reusable launch vehicles, enabling technologies, and launch sites;

2) ***Commercial Space Transportation: 2003 Year In Review*** covering U.S. and international launches and payloads from the past year and five year trends; 3) ***Environmental Requirements and Planning***, a summary of 2003 accomplishments, cooperative efforts, and other activities involving environmental guidance and regulations for launch vehicles and launch sites. This edition highlights two major efforts by FAA's Commercial Space Transportation Office: the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing Launches of Horizontally Launched Vehicles and Reentries of Reentry Vehicles and the public hearing for the East Kern Airport District Launch Site Operator License Environmental Assessment; and 4) ***Quarterly Launch Report*** covering commercial launch activities and trends for the 4th Quarter of 2003 and projected launches for the 1st Quarter of 2004. All of these publications are available on the AST's website:

<http://ast.faa.gov>.

SCENES FROM THE 7TH ANNUAL FAA COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE



FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation Patricia Smith with Conference guest, Jim Muncy



The Honorable Jeffrey N. Shane



*Representative Tom Feeney (left)
AST Staff members, Camilla McArthur and Doug Graham (right)*



Elon Musk, CEO, SpaceX



FTA Administrator, Jennifer Dorn



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